which includes production (and distribution of rooted cuttings of high yielding varieties), production of nucleus planting materials of pepper, rehabilitation of old pepper gardens in Kerala, Supply of input kits and plant protection sprayers for pepper cultivation and laying out pepper demonstration plots in ryots holdings.

Pending Income-tax arrears against Vishwa Hindu Parishad

' 35. SHRI M. M. JACOB; Will the Minister of FINANCE, be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount towards income-tax arrears against VHP during 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) what steps have been taken to realise these arrears; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the one Deputy Commissioner of Income-tax who had initiated action against VHP's tax arrears had to quit the job in September, 1990?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Nil.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (reply to (a) above,

(c) No. Sir.

Seizure of illegally imported watch components from HMT factory

36. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA;
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Customs officials have seized over RS. one crore
'"Worth of illegally imported watch components and some incriminating documents from the office and factory premises of HMT;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take against the guilty persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Acting on intelligence, the officers of Customs of Bangalore Collectorate searched the factory/officejgodown premises of various units of M s. HMT Ltd. located in and around Bangalore on 26th, 27th, 30th: and 31st October and 29th November, 1990. During the search, wrist watch parts and components of foreign origin worth Rs. 1,09,21,210/- approximately which had been imported by various parties located, in Bangalore, Bombay and Navsari (Gujarat) and reportedly sold to M/s. HMT Limited in contravention of the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 and rules and notification issued thereunder and certain documents were seized.

(c) Investigations are in progress and penal proceedingsasenvisaged under the Customs Act, 1962 will be initiated against those persons/firms who are found to have contravened the Customs law.

UnsoM tea at tea auction at Guwahati

37. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA;
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be phased to state;

(a) the quantum of tea that remained unsold in the tea auction held at Guwahati on November 19, 1990;

(b) what were the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for normal work at the tea auction centre at Guwahati?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) and (b) Based on information available with the tea Board nearly 2.65 M. Kgs. of tea remained unsold on 20th and 21st November, 1990 at auction held fit Guwahati auction centre due to

non-participation of major buyers like M/s. Brooke Bond and M/s. Lipton.

(e) With the concerted effort of the Central Government, the Tea Board and the State Government of Assam, M/s. Brooke Bond and Lipton have since started operating at Guwahati auction.

Smuggling of Gold and Silver from Pakistan

38. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that gold and Silver from Pakistan are smuggled freely along Indo-Pak border in the State of Rajasthan;

	Value of seizure
1989	
1990 (up to Nov.)	

The almost 1000 kms. long Rajasthan Pakistan border consists of vast tracks of sand and sparse population and the nature of the terrain makes the task of the anti-smuggling formations quite formidable. In order to strengthen the anti-smuggling efforts in the Rajasthan sector a new Sub-collectorate with Headquarters at Jodhpur and Divisions at Jaisalmer, Barmer, Sri-ganganagar, Bikaner and Jodhpur have been created in January, 1989 for exclusively combating smuggling and to act as a second line of defence to the Border Security Force which is deployed on the border and whose personnel have also been delegated certain powers under the Customs Law.

All theSe formations/Agencies remain alert against smuggling activities and are actively assisted by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Narcotics Control Bureau. The requirements of equipment of the operational units are being constantly monitored and they have already been provided with vehicles, metal detectors, night vision binaculars and fire arms

The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

(b) whether it is a fact that anti-smuggling wing of the Central Excise and Customs Department has been functioning under severe constraints; and

(c) if So, what steps Government propose to check the regular smuggling of gold etc. along the Rajasthan border.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH); (a) to (c) Available reports indicate that the Rajasthan sector of the Indo-Pakistan border continues to be sensitive to smuggling. This is confirmed hy the figures of seizures of contraband goods and persons apprehended in the Rajasthan sector.

Unearthing of Money Laundering Racket in Sikkim fey Income Tax Officials

39. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY; SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item that appeared **in the English** daily ".'